

PURPOSEFUL LIVING UNITS SERVE (P.L.U.S.)

P.L.U.S. is a faith and character based re-entry initiative. The unit is geared towards teaching core fundamental values that will challenge and focus on positive reinforcement, through learned behavior. The emphasis of this voluntary initiative focuses on strengthening spiritual, moral and character development as well as life-skills. P.L.U.S. empowers offenders with the necessary tools to become more productive members of society upon re-entry.

The Wabash Valley Correctional Facility P.L.U.S. unit recently embarked on a unique community service project, in memory of fallen heroes. The unit makes memorial quilts for families of Indiana soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each quilt includes the soldier's name, unit, date of birth and date of passing. The branch of service insignia is also included on the memorial quilt. Over 104 quilts been distributed to families around the state.

Recently the unit donated \$500 dollars to the Indiana Salvation Army for southwestern Indiana flood relief. They also donated over 60 hand made quilts to flood victims in northern Daviess County, and another 30 were sent to the Terre Haute Lighthouse Mission. 30 more found a home at the Terre Haute Covenant Cooperative Ministries.

Community involvement sends a message to the offender that the community has a vested interest in their success.

Offenders volunteer to take part in the program; they receive no time cuts for their efforts. To date 157 offenders have completed the 16 month program.

Speaking of volunteers, we can always use your help. The P.L.U.S. program requires a group of volunteers from a variety of faith and denominational backgrounds. The volunteers' role is to provide the P.L.U.S. participant a resource where personal growth issues are explored through the concepts of faith and character-based teachings. This source of encouragement and constructive direction is more consistent with the goal of rehabilitation. It allows the P.L.U.S. participant to address issues that need attention before he returns to society and it allows this to happen with a person who has a track record of success in the free society.

If you would like to be a P.L.U.S. volunteer at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility please contact Community Services Director David Wence at 812-398-5050, extension 3205 or email dwence@idoc.in.gov.

